

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Eric J. Franklin on 10/23/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 1, “and/or controlling” is deleted after “monitoring”

Please add new claim 21:

21 (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the measurement and estimation are used to control the load on the tensioned elongated element.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-21 are allowed over the Prior Art of record.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for allowance of independent claims 1 and 9 are the inclusions of the specific limitations and/or method steps in a device/method for monitoring a load on a slender, tensioned elongated element extending from a subsea wellhead element to a surface

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vessel having the specific measuring means and means for estimating the structural behavior and bending moment and/or declination of the tensioned elongated element, respectively. None of the Prior Art employ the specific means and/or method steps recited in the independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is invited to review PTO form 892 accompanying this Office Action listing Prior Art relevant to the instant invention cited by the Examiner.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Fitzgerald whose telephone number is (571) 272-2843. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams, can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The central fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

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more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/John Fitzgerald/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2856
10/26/09